

HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY  
HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION 1994

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE (SYLLABUS B) PAPER II**  
**MULTIPLE-CHOICE**

10.30 am-11.30 am (1 hour)

**Subject Code 021**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Read carefully the instructions on the Answer Sheet and insert the information required (including the Subject Code) in the spaces provided.
2. When told to open this book, check that all the questions are there. Look for the words 'END OF PAPER' after the last question.
3. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS.
4. All the answers should be marked on the Answer Sheet.
5. You may only mark ONE answer to each question. Two or more answers will score NO MARKS.
6. All questions carry equal marks. Marks will not be deducted for wrong answers.

## PART I COMPREHENSION

**PASSAGE A** Read this magazine article, and then answer questions 1–11. Choose the best answer from the choices A, B, C or D, and mark your answer on your multiple-choice answer sheet.

### No Smoking Day

March 10 is No Smoking Day, the day when even the most hardened smokers are asked to make a big effort and give up their habit, if only for 24 hours. You could be forgiven for thinking this is no big deal. No Smoking Day has existed for 10 years, but you may not even have heard of it, and it is doubtful if it has done much to reduce smoking. In fact it may sound like just another of those well-meant but useless symbols that no one takes seriously. But this year things are different. Ever since the first tobacco taxes were levied by the government in the early 17th century, there has been a pot of money to be made from smokers. Now, for the first time, there is a great deal of money to be made from persuading smokers to abandon the habit. Evidence of this is the way three pharmaceutical companies are at present fighting for the market in nicotine skin patches, a form of therapy designed to reduce the nicotine craving experienced by all heavy smokers when they stop. These, along with a kind of chewing-gum which works on similar principles, can be purchased from local chemists without the need for a prescription. The price is roughly equivalent to smoking 20 cigarettes a day.

Another important new element in the situation is the fact that anti-smoking campaigners are now willing to describe smoking as an addiction. In the past the use of this term was discouraged, because it was felt that even heavy smokers could be persuaded that all they needed in order to kick their habit was a little will-power. What is responsible for this change in attitude is not so much the findings of medical researchers as the commercial success of expensive anti-smoking therapies. If smokers are willing to pay up to £182 for a three-month course, they are obviously aware that will-power alone will not suffice. There is no longer any point in trying to hide the true addictive nature of smoking.

No Smoking Day is funded in the UK both by government bodies and by charitable organisations. It has a budget of £500 000, which is chicken-feed compared with the sums spent on tobacco promotion. However, thanks to the emergence of the nicotine skin patches, the campaign's efforts are being supported by the separate activities of the nicotine skin patch manufacturers. From their point of view a considerable expenditure on advertising is justified by the enormous potential profits. In Britain 14 million people smoke, of whom 10.5 million have already tried to give up and failed. One skin patch manufacturer is supporting a month-long Pharmacists Against Smoking Campaign involving 10 000 community pharmacies. Pharmacists will provide free counselling and encouragement for smokers who are trying to give up, and will not be restricted to recommending the product of the sponsoring company.

Sceptics argue that if smoking is really an addiction it is unlikely that a No Smoking Day will have much effect, with or without the efforts of the skin patch manufacturers. The statistics are certainly not encouraging. Although there has been an annual decline in the total number of smokers since the 1970s, this has now become much slower. The crucial statistic, the uptake of smoking by school children, is hardly declining at all, so clearly the message is not getting through to young people. Some experts even argue that nicotine replacement therapy could be counter-productive, since it may cause us to relax our efforts in the mistaken belief that the problem is already solved. Although the therapy helps heavy smokers who want to give up, it fails to attack the root of the problem.

There may well be truth in these criticisms, but if anything they emphasise the need to discover and counter the reasons why people smoke. The key may lie in the fact that not all smokers become addicted: a small minority seem to be able to smoke without becoming dependent on it. According to Dr Peter Hajek, a psychology lecturer at London Hospital Medical College, surveys show that these are generally well-balanced individuals leading secure and stable lives. Addictive smoking, he says, is prevalent among people who live under exceptional pressure, or have difficulty coping with emotional problems. Dr Hajek thinks this information could be put to good use. He says that many adolescents still regard smoking positively, as an adult and rebellious activity. Showing that the need to smoke is a sign of immaturity and dependence could have an important effect on the uptake statistics. If Dr Hajek is right and the way forward is through publicity, then it could be that No Smoking Day is not such a waste of time after all.

(Adapted from an article by Ann Kent, 'Will it finally filter through?', *The Times*, 9 March, 1993)

1. In paragraph 1, the writer suggests that people may be critical of No Smoking Day because it .....
  - A. was invented by the pharmaceutical industry.
  - B. has not been very effective up to now.
  - C. demands too much effort from smokers.
  - D. is only aimed at helping hardened smokers.
  
2. In line 8, the word 'this' refers to .....
  - A. the competition that exists between pharmaceutical companies.
  - B. the difficulty smokers experience in giving up their habit.
  - C. the fact that money can be made from anti-smoking therapies.
  - D. the importance of the market in nicotine skin patches.
  
3. The main reason why the chewing-gum mentioned in line 10 is helpful to smokers when they try to give up is that it .....
  - A. can satisfy their desire for nicotine.
  - B. works on new, secret principles.
  - C. is used in combination with skin patches.
  - D. costs about the same as cigarettes.
  
4. In paragraph 2, the writer indicates that another new element in the situation is that .....
  - A. the anti-smoking therapies have been very successful.
  - B. commercial methods are now used to cure smokers.
  - C. people are reluctant to pay a lot for anti-smoking therapies.
  - D. smokers are no longer told that stopping is easy.
  
5. In line 15, 'this change in attitude' means a change on the part of .....
  - A. heavy smokers.
  - B. anti-smoking campaigners.
  - C. makers of nicotine skin patches.
  - D. medical researchers.
  
6. In line 20, the term 'chicken-feed' means .....
  - A. a daily expenditure.
  - B. a capital investment.
  - C. potential profits.
  - D. an insignificant sum.
  
7. In paragraph 3, the writer suggests that skin patch manufacturers are engaging in activities which reinforce No Smoking Day because they .....
  - A. need to counter the effects of tobacco advertising.
  - B. fear that pharmacists will not recommend their products.
  - C. understand the need to give pharmacists further training.
  - D. see the possibility of a big market for their products.
  
8. The sceptics mentioned in line 28 are those who do not believe that .....
  - A. No Smoking Day serves a useful purpose.
  - B. the skin patch manufacturers are trying to help.
  - C. the statistics on smoking are reliable.
  - D. the number of young smokers is declining.
  
9. The writer thinks that the statistics referred to in line 29 .....
  - A. contradict the argument of the sceptics.
  - B. support the view of the sceptics.
  - C. have misled the sceptics.
  - D. are not understood by the sceptics.
  
10. In line 35, 'the root of the problem' is that .....
  - A. smoking is an addiction which cannot be cured.
  - B. nicotine skin patch therapy is not really helpful.
  - C. experts do not agree on how to solve the problem.
  - D. many young people are still likely to become smokers.
  
11. Dr Hajek thinks the number of school children taking up smoking could be reduced by .....
  - A. helping smokers not to become dependent.
  - B. showing that smoking is rebellious.
  - C. providing a negative image for smoking.
  - D. teaching people to cope with emotional problems.

**PASSAGE B** Read this magazine article, and then answer questions 12–25. Choose the best answer from the choices A, B, C or D, and mark your answer on your multiple-choice answer sheet.

## Paranormal phenomena

Paranormal phenomena are events or abilities which are thought to have no scientific explanation, like telepathy, psychokinesis, and extrasensory perception. Telepathy, or mind to mind communication, is the mysterious gift some people are supposed to have of being able to communicate with each other simply by transmitting their thoughts directly, without the mediation of any form of language. Psychokinesis is supposed to be the ability to make things happen just by willing them to happen: the traffic light, for example, obediently changes to green as you approach it because you will it to do so. Those who believe in extrasensory perception, often known as ESP, say that we can have experience of things which we cannot see or touch, like ghosts or spirits; we perceive such things not through our senses, but through some method of perception unknown to science. Needless to say, there is no proof of the existence of these abilities or of any other paranormal phenomena.

Yet belief in the paranormal is widespread and persistent. In many cultures it is practically universal and even in the West about half the population believe in ESP and say that they themselves have experienced it. It might then seem unreasonable to deny that paranormal events actually occur. Not so. People certainly have the experiences, but we can question whether these experiences are paranormal. It may well be that they have interpreted as paranormal something which is actually quite normal. In order to prove the existence of the paranormal, what has to be shown is not that the events themselves occur but that there is no normal explanation for them.

Let us consider, for example, the case of a dream that comes true. Suppose you dream that your favourite cousin is being buried in a coffin, and the very next morning you get a telephone call to say that she died unexpectedly in the night. If you're human at all you'll probably think it must have been precognition (seeing into the future) or telepathy. You will almost certainly reject the idea of a coincidence, because you assume the chances that it could happen just when you dreamed it are more than a million to one and therefore against all probability. However, one British statistician, Christopher Scott, has calculated how often death dreams should come true by chance. He assumes each person has one death dream in their life, and works out how often that should coincide with the death of the person dreamed about. Considering how many people die each night, even in a small country like England, he concludes that this startling coincidence will happen to someone every two weeks. Now each of these events is pure chance, but the people involved will almost certainly think it was paranormal.

This in fact is why we get it wrong. When we call something paranormal, we are implicitly saying that it could not have been chance. But how good are our judgements of chance and probability? Psychologists have long known that people are not like computers when it comes to estimating probabilities. They just guess, relying on dubious factors like how easily they can imagine different outcomes: they assume, that is, that the probability of something happening is low if they can think of a number of other things that might have happened – which is not the case. It is reasonable to suppose, then, that people come to believe in the paranormal not just because they love mystery or because their senses deceive them but because they misjudge the probabilities of everyday events. If so, we would expect the believers to make worse probability judgements than the disbelievers. This hypothesis has been confirmed by experiments in which subjects of similar age and educational level were asked a number of probability-based questions: it was indeed found that of the two groups, the disbelievers performed better.

What is most interesting about belief in the paranormal is not that it is an illusion but that it may result from the normal workings of the mind. The brain can only store a limited amount of the immense wealth of information which surrounds us all the time. This is why we forget or even fail to notice things which are not particularly relevant to us. During a visit to a fortune-teller, we may be told several hundred or even several thousand pieces of information. Obviously what we will remember best is the information which is correct. Thus we tend to exaggerate the fortune-teller's success. It is precisely because we are always looking for explanations of events that we cannot accept the idea of coincidences occurring by chance.

(Adapted from an article by Susan Blackmore, 'All in the mind', *New Internationalist*, November, 1992)

12. Telepathy is supposed to differ from normal communication because it .....
- A. uses simple and informal language.
  - B. does not involve language at all.
  - C. makes use of media transmission.
  - D. transmits less complicated thoughts.
13. In line 6, 'do so' means .....
- A. use psychokinesis.
  - B. approach it.
  - C. change colour.
  - D. transmit your thoughts.
14. The main purpose of paragraph 1 is to .....
- A. define the meaning of paranormal.
  - B. explain how telepathy functions.
  - C. point out the inadequacy of science.
  - D. encourage belief in paranormal phenomena.
15. In paragraph 2, the writer implies that .....
- A. paranormal events actually occur.
  - B. few people believe in paranormal experiences nowadays.
  - C. people who claim to have paranormal experiences are not telling the truth.
  - D. surprisingly many people in the West believe in the paranormal.
16. According to the writer, when dreams come true it is .....
- A. certainly not a coincidence.
  - B. a case of precognition.
  - C. the result of telepathy.
  - D. an effect of chance.
17. Christopher Scott concludes that every two weeks someone will .....
- A. die unexpectedly in the night.
  - B. have a death dream that comes true.
  - C. experience some kind of coincidence.
  - D. have a paranormal experience.
18. The main point of Christopher Scott's calculations was to show that .....
- A. death dreams which come true are much commoner than one would expect.
  - B. everyone has one death dream during their lifetime.
  - C. a very large number of people die in England each night.
  - D. most people only have one death dream during their lifetime.
19. In line 29, the word 'This' refers to the fact that we .....
- A. underestimate the probability of a coincidence.
  - B. are surprised by the number of people who have true death dreams.
  - C. believe what people say without asking for proof.
  - D. forget that England is such a small country.
20. In line 32, the word 'dubious' means .....
- A. unknown.
  - B. unreliable.
  - C. unpredictable.
  - D. untrue.
21. According to paragraph 4, the main reason for belief in the paranormal is that people .....
- A. imagine events which have not actually occurred.
  - B. cannot easily imagine different outcomes.
  - C. dislike using computers to check their estimates.
  - D. fail to make accurate estimates of probability.

22. In line 39, the word 'indeed' implies that the finding was .....
- A. surprising.
  - B. expected.
  - C. unusual.
  - D. obvious.

24. In paragraph 5, the writer says that belief in the paranormal is .....
- A. not an illusion.
  - B. a result of the brain not working normally.
  - C. caused by our search for explanations.
  - D. due to the fact that fortune-tellers exaggerate.

23. Subjects tested in the experiment mentioned in paragraph 4 were divided into two groups on the basis of their .....
- A. age and education.
  - B. ability to judge probability.
  - C. belief in the paranormal.
  - D. performance in the test.

25. According to the article, the writer believes that .....
- A. some people can communicate directly without language.
  - B. we cannot prove that any paranormal phenomena exist.
  - C. people have certain abilities which have no scientific explanation.
  - D. direct transmission of thoughts is the simplest form of communication.

## PART II USAGE

### PASSAGE 1

Decide which of the choices on page 6 for items 26-50 would best complete the newspaper article if inserted in the blanks. Mark your answer for each item on your multiple-choice answer sheet.

## A day for watching birds

This year the Big Bird Race is likely to have special (26). The aim of the event, which takes place every year in the spring, is to raise funds for the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF); this year's (27) from the race is going to be especially welcome because the WWF has new costs to (28).

The Big Bird Race participants go out into the (29) armed with binoculars and (30) to see which of them can see the greatest number of birds (31) a 24-hour period. The rules of the competition (32) each bird to be seen by every (33) of the team.

Money raised for the WWF by the Big Bird Race (34) to pay for maintaining the Mai Po Marshes nature reserve. Thousands of migrating birds, (35) some which belong to endangered species, (36) the 23 shrimp ponds of Mai Po every winter. At (37) the WWF manages 11 of these ponds but the government is to buy the other 12 from farmers this year and (38) them over to the WWF. This (39) that the area the WWF manages will more than (40) in size. (41) this is obviously good news for the birds, it means that the WWF's costs will be (42) increased. There is a good deal more to management than just keeping an eye (43) for new and interesting birds. The ponds have to be dredged, new trees (44), existing trees trimmed and some areas cleared to (45) good feeding conditions for a (46) of birds - the aim being to provide different (47) for as many species as possible.

For the WWF, therefore, the (48) of the Big Bird Race is especially important this year. It is hoped that if the teams (49) generous sponsorship from companies and from the general (50), the Race will make as much as \$1.6 million.

(Adapted from an article by Kathy Griffin, 'Battle to feed the birds',  
*The Sunday Morning Post*, 8 March 1993.)

26. A. enjoyment  
B. significance  
C. needs  
D. arrangement
27. A. quantity  
B. contribution  
C. victory  
D. result
28. A. charge  
B. meet  
C. rise  
D. increase
29. A. landscape  
B. world  
C. countryside  
D. situation
30. A. compete  
B. listen  
C. play  
D. agree
31. A. before  
B. through  
C. over  
D. by
32. A. require  
B. permit  
C. request  
D. define
33. A. person  
B. member  
C. leader  
D. competitor
34. A. uses  
B. used  
C. is used  
D. will use
35. A. being  
B. consisting  
C. including  
D. comprising
36. A. escape  
B. visit  
C. explore  
D. reveal
37. A. last  
B. least  
C. present  
D. any rate
38. A. let  
B. sell  
C. hand  
D. send
39. A. results  
B. makes  
C. causes  
D. means
40. A. increase  
B. bigger  
C. double  
D. advance
41. A. Although  
B. Since  
C. In fact  
D. Even
42. A. very  
B. greatly  
C. hardly  
D. so much
- \* 43. A. out  
B. to  
C. at  
D. with
44. A. for planting  
B. planting  
C. were planted  
D. planted
45. A. create  
B. manufacture  
C. improve  
D. expose
46. A. flock  
B. crowd  
C. variety  
D. quantity
47. A. habitats  
B. classifications  
C. outlets  
D. researchers
48. A. phenomenon  
B. factor  
C. success  
D. decision
49. A. make  
B. take  
C. win  
D. hope
50. A. people  
B. audience  
C. spectators  
D. public

\* This item was deleted in the live paper as it was found to be unsuitable.

PASSAGE 2

Decide which of the choices given below for items 51-72 would best complete the advertisement if inserted in the blanks. Mark your answer for each item on your multiple-choice answer sheet.

A watch for adventurers

For explorers like Stephen Venables and Robert Anderson, a reliable timepiece is more than a convenience, it is a (51)!

(52) the remote heights of Mount Everest without the (53) of bottled oxygen, they (54) to time their ascents with extreme caution. Their goal was to reach camp before sunset, when high winds and (55) visibility make the mountain even more (56). The timepiece they depended on was Rolex.

Part of (57) makes a Rolex Oyster so (58) is the design of its rugged case, which (59) from a solid block of metal, using up to 60 tons of pressure.

The Twinlock winding crown is added to the Oyster case. (60) according to the same principles (61) a submarine's waterproof hatch, the Twinlock (62) water and other elements from reaching the delicate movement (63). Each Oyster watch takes a year to make, from the first operation on the first tiny part to (64) assembly by one of our highly-skilled craftsmen in Geneva.

After a (65) of gruelling tests at Rolex, Oyster timepieces are sent to an independent Swiss Institute. (66), each watch must successfully (67) 15 days and nights of rigorous testing before it is (68) the prestigious red seal that (69) it is an Official Swiss Chronometer.

The extraordinary process that (70) making a Rolex helps (71) why it is utterly invaluable in any environment, from the frozen wastelands of the Arctic to the burning deserts of the Sahara, from the (72) of the ocean to the roof of the world.

(Adapted from an advertisement for Rolex of Geneva)

- 51. A. problem B. technology C. necessity D. masterpiece
52. A. Seeing B. Arriving C. Braving D. Looking
53. A. containers B. quantity C. breath D. aid
54. A. needed B. forgot C. seemed D. supposed
55. A. nasty B. misty C. rough D. poor
56. A. steep B. tired C. dangerous D. burdensome
57. A. that B. what C. why D. it
58. A. dependent B. independent C. depending D. dependable
59. A. makes B. being made C. is made D. made
60. A. By design B. With design C. Designed D. Designing
61. A. as B. in C. for D. with
62. A. keeps B. avoids C. maintains D. enables
63. A. of it B. within C. herewith D. in
64. A. final B. last C. latest D. mechanical
65. A. kind B. series C. length D. means
66. A. When B. Still C. There D. Yet
67. A. to undergo B. underwent C. undergoing D. undergo
68. A. stamped B. awarded C. concluded D. received
69. A. guarantees B. registers C. regulates D. presents
70. A. turns out for B. comes out of C. goes into D. finishes by
71. A. explain B. discover C. investigate D. contribute
72. A. waves B. breezes C. depths D. banks

END OF PAPER

\* These items were deleted in the live paper as they were found to be unsuitable.



1994 English Language (Syllabus B) Paper II

Question No.	Key	Question No.	Key
1.	B	37.	C
2.	C	38.	C
3.	A	39.	D
4.	D	40.	C
5.	B	41.	A
6.	D	42.	B
7.	D	43.	A
8.	A	44.	D
9.	B	45.	A
10.	D	46.	C
11.	C	47.	A
12.	B	48.	C
13.	C	49.	C
14.	A	50.	D
15.	D	51.	C
16.	D	52.	C
17.	B	53.	D
18.	A	54.	A
19.	A	55.	D
20.	B	56.	C
21.	D	57.	B
22.	B	58.	D
23.	C	59.	C
24.	C	60.	C
25.	B	61.	A
26.	B	62.	A
27.	B	63.	B
28.	B	64.	A
29.	C	65.	B
30.	A	66.	C
31.	C	67.	D
32.	A	68.	B
33.	B	69.	A
34.	C	70.	C
35.	C	71.	A
36.	B	72.	C